



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT)

Name of Proposal: YAKIMA RIVER CANYON LAND CONVERSION AND MITIGATION REPLACEMENT LANDS

Description of Proposal:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ("WDFW") proposes to remove federal protection from the 9.04-acre portion of its Yakima River Canyon site located on the east side of the Yakima River in Kittitas County in order to resolve a boundary dispute with the adjacent landowner. WDFW's proposed land exchange would avoid the cost and uncertainty of litigation over the boundary dispute. WDFW proposes to mitigate this impact with the acquisition of three replacement properties. These three properties include: (a) 26.05 acres of the adjacent parcel on the west side of the Yakima River; (b) a 3.19-acre parcel upstream from the original site on the Yakima River at Highway 10 near Thorp in Kittitas County; and, (c) an 83.84-acre parcel with ponds and wetlands near Mesa in Franklin County.

This action is needed to avoid an adverse possession claim by the adjacent landowner. It has the additional benefits of re-positioning WDFW's public access opportunities from 9 acres at one site to 113 acres at 3 sites, all of which are far superior sites from a public recreation standpoint.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Elyse Kane

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Location of Proposal: Land to be Converted now 9.04 acre WDFW property: Kittitas County Section 28, Township 16 North, Range 19 East WM

Replacement Properties:

26.05 acres: Kittitas County Section 28, Township 16 North, Range 19 East WM

3.19 acres: Kittitas County Section 12, Township 18 North, Range 17 East WM

83.84 acres: Franklin County Section 34, Township 13 North, Range 30 East WM

Maps of Properties and other project materials may be viewed on WDFW's SEPA Web Site:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the

environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 30 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within **30 days** of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **April 25, 2013**

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: March 25, 2013

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 13 -020. dns